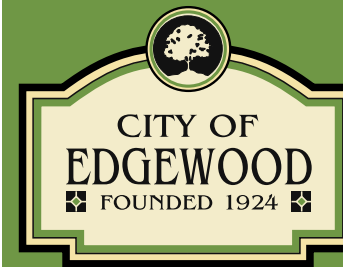


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Meeting Times
City Council
3rd Tuesday of Month
6:30 pm

Planning & Zoning
2nd Monday of Month
6:30 pm

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2009 • 1st Quarter

Edgewood **EXCLUSIVE**

From The Mayor's Desk.... ***By Mayor Michael Teague***

Well, it's that time of year again where projects in the City are starting to ramp up, so we have a number of announcements. I'll hit on each briefly below, and direct everyone to the City's website for additional information.

First off, this year's capital improvements work in the City should start in the next couple weeks. There are a number of street re-paving and drainage system repairs that are planned throughout the City, so please use care when driving around the City over the next few months. These projects are somewhat intrusive while they are occurring, but are a necessary part of keeping our City up to date. Residents living in close proximity to these projects will receive a letter from the City noting specifics regarding their project(s). Again, you can always find up to date information on this work in the Current Projects / 2009 Capital Improvements Plan section of the City's website.

Next up, you'll soon find some of your neighbors doing work to their neighborhoods via Neighborhood Partnership grants awarded by the City. The following homeowners associations applied, and received approval, for Neighborhood Partnerships grants this year.

- Granada Woods
- Harbor Oaks Pointe
- Lake Marry Jess Shores
- River Oaks

Please join me in congratulating these homeowners associations on their grant awards and in recognizing their pride in their neighborhoods and community. For additional information on these particular grant awards as well as the Neighborhood Grants program itself, please visit the Grants section on the City's website.

Finally, we here in Central Florida have been very blessed overall during the past couple years when it comes to a lack of major hurricanes and/or tropical storms. However, we don't want to take anything for granted or become complacent when it comes to preparations for these weather events. As such, I am asking every HOA to contact City Hall and provide staff with two contacts (names, addresses, contact numbers, and email addresses). For those older areas of the City without virtue of a formal homeowners association, I would ask that you band together and select a group of representatives from each area to use as City contacts, and then relay this information to the City Hall staff. The City is building a contact email group which will be notified of any/all plans and information the City will undertake for a particular storm. This is an excellent way to disburse information quickly across the City prior to a storm, and I would ask that everyone aide us in the creation of the contact group list, and in keeping it current. Please direct any questions about this item to the City Hall staff.

As always, should you wish to discuss an item of interest, feel free to email me at mteague@edgewood-fl.gov.

A Word from the Chief

By Pete Marcus

The arrival of summer is always accompanied by the start of hurricane season. Your Edgewood Police Department officers and staff remain committed to the concept of planning for the worst while hoping for the best. To that end we are again asking that you:

- Develop your personal family hurricane response plan
- Ensure that you have a 3 day supply of water and non-perishable food
- Obtain a battery operated radio
- Notify the Edgewood Police Department of any special needs of people living at your residence



We are hoping that during this year's hurricane season we will not have a storm come our way. I assure you that if we do get a storm our officers are trained and ready to respond.

On another note, please remember that most crimes are crimes of opportunity. Don't forget to close your garage doors, lock your vehicles and be attentive for suspicious persons/activity in your neighborhood. Our officers constantly patrol our City but we can't be everywhere all the time. If you see something suspicious don't hesitate to call. If you are reluctant to call 9-1-1 you can always call and speak directly to an officer on the patrol cell phone. That phone number is 407-467-2435.

We at the Edgewood Police Department remain committed to the goal of a crime free and safe community. Have a great, safe summer.

Pine Castle Charter School?

The area in and around the City of Edgewood, including Pine Castle and Belle Isle, has long been considered a desirable place to live. The earliest settlers favored the area because of the protection offered by Fort Gatlin. In later years, ranchers and citrus growers favored the area because of its numerous lakes, high and dry ground, and proximity to Orlando and the railroad. As single family homes replaced citrus groves and cows, the lakes among a country atmosphere close to downtown Orlando continue to be attractive.



While times continue to change, our community continues to be one of the more desirable places to live and raise a family. The long anticipated medical center is now becoming a reality adjacent to Orlando International Airport. Quiet neighborhoods located among the trees and lakes with good police protection will be attractive to those working in the new medical community.

Of course, one of the most important things for families is the schools. Sadly, the schools in our community are not what they once were. The best efforts of administrators to restore Oak Ridge High School to its former standards have sadly yielded little success. While we have waited patiently for a turnaround, many of us took solace in the quality education offered by Pine Castle Elementary School. The recent budget crisis, however, has now given the Orange County Public School Board the excuse it has been looking for to close the beloved Pine Castle Elementary School. Thus, the current system is failing to provide our community with the quality education that it once enjoyed.

With no relief in sight, the Edgewood City Council voted to join the Belle Isle City Council in hiring a consultant to explore the feasibility of a charter school. Charter school's receive public funding like those operated by the public school districts, but are operated by public or private organizations separate from the school district. Edgewood and Belle Isle are not the first cities in the State of Florida to explore operating charter schools. Pembroke Pines in Broward County, Florida, started its own charter school over ten years ago. While meeting all of the basic educational requirements of the State of Florida, charter schools can impose higher standards for conduct, additional academic requirements, school uniforms, and the like.

The results of the feasibility study will not be known for several months. If a charter school is feasible, its ultimate success will depend upon broad support from the local community. Because they are small cities, Edgewood and Belle Isle can help organize and direct that community support for maximum results.



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The Russell Home for Atypical Children is “Home” for a number of children whose handicap prevents their independent functioning in the community, and otherwise enjoying a normal life. The Russell Home provides around the clock specialized care, with love and a home-like atmosphere so vital to their special needs. The Russell Home also provides day care on a regular or part-time basis, as well as temporary respite care during vacation or emergency situations of parents whose handicapped child lives at home

The Russell Home was the first non-profit institution in the country for brain-damaged children. Today you would find quietly hanging in the home a dusty occupational license dated Nov. 13, 1951, when Mrs. Russell opened her home to the first child to “see if it would work out.” Since then, the home has opened its doors to hundreds of youngsters, sometimes after hearing pleas from desperate parents, and in more than one instance, finding them just left on the doorstep.

By choice, the Russell Home operates without the benefits of federal, state, or local funding, the purpose being to eliminate possible restrictions that would defeat the founding principle of the Home - that acceptance be based solely on the need for the service offered. Because it is a unique facility - the only one of its kind in Central Florida - there is always a shortage of space, but no child in need is ever turned away. Referrals come from churches, doctors, police departments, and the courts for permanent, part-time or interim care.

On June 4th, 2003, Mrs. Vantrease “Grandma” Russell passed away. This great lady will be sorely missed but never forgotten. Her legacy continues to this day in the children that come to know “The Russell Home” as their home. Please help support the efforts of the staff that have dedicated their lives to continue that dream that “Grandma Russell” loved and with your past & current support, made a reality.

Want to help? The Russell Home is always in need of certain household supplies, cleaning items, food stocks, and other items.

Wish to make a donation? If you would like to make a donation contact the Russell Home at 407-855-8063 or email to info@russellhome.org. You can also visit their website at www.russellhome.org/ or view their U Tube videos at ww.youtube.com/watch?v=E9eIXYKP8G8
Thank you for your loving kindness!

From Your Public Works Chairman

By Dr. Neil Powell – Council Member



The City is fortunate, in my opinion, to have a good maintenance man whose name is Jerry Reynolds. Mr. Reynolds keeps our City Hall and police building and grounds looking neat and well cared for. The right-of-ways are also well maintained. As Orange and Hansel Avenues are state roads, that something I, as Public Works Chairman, have to keep after the Department of Transportation to maintain.

I hope you have noticed that CSX has recently cleaned their right-of-way through our City. As long as I stay on “top of them”, they do periodically mow and clean their property. And by-the-way, there are plans-a-foot to double track their railroad through our City.

The development of the Edgewood Service Center, that property between Cypress Grove Park and the railroad, has been held up by the County Public Works Dept’s refusal to grant the City and easement to dispose of the surface run-off water from that development. We’ve had numerous discussions and meetings with them, and we believe, with the help of Linda Stewart’s office and Mayor Crotty’s office, they have finally agreed to our requests and plans.

The Department of Transportation tells me they have a plan to help us with the “Malfunction Junction” at Gatlin-Orange Ave-Holden intersection. Keep your fingers crossed.

Edgewood Code Enforcement

by Debbie Wallace – Code Enforcement Officer



Greetings, hope everyone is doing well. It seems that “sign issues” are coming up again and I would like to assist anyone with questions or concerns as it relates to signs. Chapter 122 in our Code of Ordinances provides details on what is permitted and what is not. For instance, “banner signs” may be used only by government institutions and are not permitted for all businesses. There have also been quite a few questions about flag signs; per Chapter 122.4 (4) banners, pennants, ribbons, flags, streamers, spinners or wind-operated devices which are not permitted within city limits. Please, at your convenience, review this Chapter and/or call me if you have any questions. You will most likely see me out and about collecting signs when they are put on the City’s right-of-way or are not permitted pursuant to our Code of Ordinances. Please do not put up or post any signs before checking with City Hall staff. I would like to let you know that the City has collected fines for liens placed on properties for land maintenance issues and will continue to do so as needed. In closing I would like to thank everyone for abiding by our City Code of Ordinances. Till next time!

Why Do We Take The Census ?

- The U.S Constitution mandates a headcount every 10 years, of everyone residing in the United States: in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Island areas. This includes all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens, and noncitizens. The first census was conducted in 1790 and has been carried out every 10 years since.
- The next census occurs in 2010. The population totals from each census will determine the number of seats each State has in the House of Representatives. The U.S. Census Bureau must submit state population totals to the President of the United States by December 31, 2010.
- The totals also affect funding in your community, and data collected in the census help inform decision makers how your community is changing. Approximately \$300 billion in federal funding is distributed to communities each year.

A Message from Your City Engineer

By Art Miller - City Engineer



As a part of the approved budget for Fiscal Year 2008-09, several street and drainage projects will be started in the coming weeks. Included are the resurfacing of Lake Conway Drive, Lake Gatlin Road, and Lake Gatlin Woods Court; installation of flush curbing and re-establishment of roadside swales on Lake Gatlin Woods Court; grading and drainage improvements on the unpaved portions of Lake Gatlin Road and Lake Conway Drive; resurfacing of the City Hall/Police Department parking lots; and installation of a lift station at the City Hall complex to connect to sewer.

During the work it will be necessary to close portions of the roadway for short durations, including your residential driveways. Also, street parking will not be allowed while the milling and paving operations are taking place. The Contractor and the City will have signs posted during these times to let you know when this will take place.

Please feel free to contact City Hall if you have any questions about this project. It is the City's desire to minimize any inconveniences associated with this much-needed work. Thank you for your cooperation.

Spring Cleaning & Household Hazardous Waste

By Art Miller - City Engineer



It's that time of year and, as summer approaches, many of us are taking the opportunity to clean out the garage or trying to uncover that long-lost lawn mower, last seen in the outside storage shed. It's also a time to remind everyone that many items being thrown out do not belong in your regular trash and garbage pickup because they are considered hazardous waste. These items, if placed in the landfill, can leak out over time and contaminate the source of our drinking water, the underground aquifer. They also pose a significant threat to our surrounding lake system if dumped into storm drains. These items can be taken to Orange County's Hazardous Waste Facility located at 12100 Young Pine Road. The facility accepts drop-offs at no charge Monday - Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

We're also in the Central Florida "leaf season". Please be reminded (or your lawn service) not to blow leaves into the street or storm drains as they end up in our lakes. All leaves should be collected for curbside pick-up or for composting on your property. Help keep our lakes clean!!

Edgewood City Council has Special Guests

By Judy Beardslee -- Council President

During the March 2009 regular council meeting, the Mayor and Council Members were honored by the presence of two very special Edgewood City residents, Mr. Robbie Henley and Miss Kate Henley; son and daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Malcolm Henley.

Robbie and Kate were very interested and inquisitive about how the City of Edgewood's government works, and posed some pretty tough questions to our Mayor and Police Chief; perhaps more to the point and in depth than any others I can recall. Their questions were thought provoking and I would imagine many of us still recall them often, and ponder the answers quite a bit. We appreciated their candor, but more so, their innocent ability to remind us of the important reasons we serve the residents of Edgewood. Their unintended, but simple reminder was invaluable.

City Council Members and those in attendance were impressed by the children's ability to maintain composure and get straight to the point with their questions. It was enamoring to see their genuine interest, and I suspect sometime in the future – within the next decade, we'll see more of these two participating in community or public service, hopefully in Edgewood!

Both Robbie and Kate have been awarded with a framed, honorary certificate as Edgewood City Mayor and Council President.

